

For patients having surgery: Guidelines for escorts

BIDMC is pleased to welcome visitors and escorts for patients having surgery. Please note the following guidelines.

- Patients having surgery may have **one or two (2) escorts** accompany them on the day of surgery.
- Anyone who is **not feeling well** should not be an escort or visitor.
- Anyone coming into the hospital **should clean their hands** frequently. If hands are free of visible soil, hand sanitizer dispensers may be used. Otherwise, hands should be washed with soap and water.
- In some circumstances, face masks or other protective equipment is needed in order to visit. This includes instances in which there is concern about infection, or in cases where the patient prefers that others wear a mask. **Please follow posted signage on the room and/or instructions from the staff.**
- While the patient is in surgery, especially in cases of short surgeries where the patient is expected to leave the same day, a visitor/escort may wait in **designated waiting areas**.
- The **care team will be in touch** with a designated contact (family member or other support person) throughout the patient's stay. Please be sure we have the **correct contact information**.
- If the patient is **going home the same day**, we will contact the person picking them up to provide details about how to meet the patient and any discharge instructions.
- We believe in a culture of respect for all. Please help us maintain this culture. Visitors who engage in abusive language or threats will be asked to leave.
- If the patient is being admitted, regular **hospital visiting policies** will apply. Please refer to policies posted at bidmc.org.

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